

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20

FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06 SAB-01 SAJ-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /187 W

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P R 130605Z APR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0897

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS POUCH

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

RU KR/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0008

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0217

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UK

SUBJ: RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH UK

REF: BAGHDAD 0115

1. BRITISH DEL HEADED BY FORMER UN PERMREP SIR DONALD MAITLAND

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ARRIVED BAGHDAD APRIL 9 AND MET WITH MFA UNDERSECRETARY TAQA

AND FORMIN ABDUL BAQI TO FINALIZE RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS EFFECTIVE APRIL 10. AMBASSADOR MAITLAND TOLD ME HAD SEIZED OCCASION TO GIVE TAQA VIEW OF WORLD SITUATION AS SEEN FROM LONDON DURING WHICH HE STRESSED THAT ATLANTIC ALLIANCE REMAINED STRATEGIC NECESSITY AND NOT TOO MUCH SHOULD BE MADE OF CURRENT TACTICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. AND EUROPE. TAQA HAD RESPONDED BY STRONGLY CRITICIZING WASHINGTON ENERGY MEETING AS U.S. LED CONSPIRACY AGAINST ARABS. HE PRAISED BRITISH ME POSITION AS CONTAINED IN STATEMENT OF NINE. IN SHORTER SESSION, FORMIN ABDUL BAQI HAD EMPHASIZED IRAQ'S BALANCED FOREIGN POLICY AND IMPORTANCE IT PLACED ON AVOIDING ISOLATION AND GETTING RID OF IRAQ'S UNJUSTIFIABLE IMAGE AS "HYSTERICAL" AND "RECKLESS".

2. RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS RECEIVED VERY SLIGHT MEDIA COVERAGE DESPITE ITS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS FORMER BRITISH MANDATE. INSTEAD, MEDIA PLAYED UP VISIT OF BULGARIAN FIRST SECRETARY ZHIVKOV, SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET-IRAQI TREATY, AND RCC VICE CHAIRMAN SADDAM HUSSEIN'S INTERVIEW WITH LEBANESE JOURNALISTS.

3. COMMENT: SIX WEEK INTERVAL BETWEEN RESUMPTION WITH FRG AND UK RESULTED FROM FORMATION OF NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT. GOI MADE DECISION SHORTLY AFTER FRENCH FORMIN JOBERT VISIT IN EARLY FEBRUARY. GOI HAD RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO FRENCH ADVOCACY OF EUROPEAN-ARAB SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP AND JOBERT HAD TOLD THEM IT WOULD REQUIRE RELATIONS WITH ALL EC COUNTRIES.

4. ALTHOUGH RESUMPTION WITH UK IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF IRAQ'S INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY AND LESSENS WEIGHT OF SOVIET PRESENCE, IT IS NOT ALL GOOD FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW. MAIN REASON FOR IRAQ'S ENTHUSIASM FOR ARAB-EUROPEAN RELATIONSHIP IS THAT IT HELPS SOLVE DILEMMA OF HOW TO EXERT ITS INDEPENDENCE AND BALANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR AND STILL MAINTAIN RADICAL POSTURE AS LEADER OF ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT AGAINST IMPERIALISM, ZIONISM AND REACTION. WHILE IT MAY NO LONGER RING TRUE IN MANY EARS, U.S. IS LIKELY TO REMAIN CHIEF WHIPPING BOY FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
LOWRIE

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